

FISCAL NOTE

HB 1739 - SB 1868

April 16, 2001

SUMMARY OF BILL: Creates the Early Childhood Learning and Development Fund Act, which:

- Earmarks 25%, subject to the general appropriations act, of funds received from the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement to the early childhood learning and development fund created by the act.
- Creates a special trust fund in the state treasury.
- Beginning on July 1, 2001, funds from the trust fund shall be expended for:
 - programs to enhance early childhood learning and development. Such programs may include subsidies for working families who do not qualify for existing child care subsidies;
 - improvement of child care quality in this state by funding activities which include child care provider professional development and training activities;
 - increased reimbursement rates for child care facilities that provide superior care;
 - support of activities of the child care facilities corporation.
- Creates the Early Childhood Learning and Development Board. The board will consist of the following 11 members: Commissioner of Children's Services; Commissioner of Education; Commissioner of Health; Comptroller of the Treasury; 2 Members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House; 2 Members of the Senate, appointed by the Speaker of the Senate; and 3 citizens who are knowledgeable in early childhood development, of which 1 each shall be appointed by the Governor, Speaker of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- Members of the board shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for travel expenses.
- Requires the Department of Human Services to provide administrative support.
- Duties of the board include:
 - Development of a comprehensive plan to upgrade childhood development and learning opportunities for Tennessee children;
 - Review and approval of program proposals for expenditure of funds;
 - Development of policies, procedures, guidelines and rules and regulations with the assistance of the department of human services;
 - General oversight of expenditures and all programs under this part;
 - Conduct of necessary monitoring, review and reporting, with the assistance of the Department of Human Services
 - Development of a program designed to upgrade the professional development of persons who are employed or provide training in a child care or early childhood setting through scholarships, merit awards, and monetary incentives, to assist these persons in obtaining a child development associate credential, post-secondary certificate, diploma, degree, or specialty credential in an area of study determined by the board.

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- Eligibility for scholarship funds shall be for individuals who do not have access to professional development funds from other education programs that receive state or federal funds, and who are:
 - Employed at least 20 hours per week providing services in a child care or early childhood setting; or
 - Involved in providing professional development training for teachers in an early childhood setting.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - Exceeds \$88,000,000

Other Fiscal Impact - Earmarks 25% of funds received pursuant to the Master Settlement Agreement to enact the Early Childhood Learning and Development Act provisions outlined in the bill.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James A. Davenport". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

James A. Davenport, Executive Director